

improperly identified the special technical features and is reading limitations into the claims that are not present. The special technical feature of the present invention is a “subunit peptide originating from an oligomeric protein having disulfide bonds within a subunit and between subunits” and a “polyoxyalkyl polyether bonded to a cysteine residue.” This special technical feature is shared by each Group and the Examiner has not provided any evidence to suggest that this feature does not define a contribution over the state of the art. Accordingly, the criteria for unity of invention are satisfied.

Applicants further traverse that Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not applied the same standard of unity of invention as the International Preliminary Examination Authority (a copy of the English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report **submitted herewith**). The Authority did not take the position that unity of invention was lacking in the International application and examined all claims together.

Applicants note that PCT Article 27(l) states:

No national law shall require compliance with requirements relating to the form or contents of the international application different from or additional to those which are provided for in this Treaty and the Regulations.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully traverse on the grounds that the Office has not shown that a burden exists in searching the entire application.

MPEP in §803 states as follows:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office. In fact, the International Searching Authority has searched all of the claims together.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Stephen G. Baxter, Ph.D.
Registration No. 32,884

Vincent K. Shier, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,552

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)